



Transportation Advisory Committee, Arlington Planning Department,  
730 Mass Ave, Arlington MA, c/o Laura Wiener

**To:** Board of Selectmen, Arlington, MA  
**From:** Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)  
**Subject:** Warrant Article 16: Safe Streets Bylaw  
**Date:** 18 March 2013

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As requested by the BoS, the TAC has discussed and voted on the proposed Warrant Article 16: Safe Streets Bylaw. The TAC believes that the Town should make all reasonable provisions for public safety in the planning, design, construction and reconstruction of roadway projects. Further, particular emphasis should be placed on pedestrian and bicycle safety due to the increased risk of injury for these modes of transportation. These provisions should be considered in the context of current laws and acceptable standards of public safety and accessibility, environmental quality and reasonable financial restraints.

The TAC fully supports the intent of improving pedestrian safety. However, the Committee was divided on the necessity of the Bylaw. Pedestrian safety is already being considered as one of the Town's transportation safety concerns by many boards, departments and committees including: TAC, BoS, DPW, Planning Department, Police Department, Walking in Arlington, Arlington School Department, and the Safe Routes to Schools program.

The Committee voted to support Warrant Article 16 at our March 12, 2013 meeting (4 in favor, 2 against, 2 abstentions) with the revisions to the text as shown on the following page (TAC's additions are shown as underlines).

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Maxtutis and Howard Muise – TAC Co-Chairs

**Transportation Advisory Committee Members:**

Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Wayne Chouinard, Jean Clark, Paul Kent, Jeff Maxtutis, Howard Muise,

Officer Corey Rateau, Scott Smith, Edward Starr, Richard Turcotte, and Laura Wiener

Web site: [www.arlingtonma.gov/tac](http://www.arlingtonma.gov/tac)

## **Warrant Article 16: Safe Streets Bylaw (10-registered-voters warrant article)**

From: Adam Auster, 10 Cottage Ave. (781) 648-6756

To: Transportation Advisory Committee

Date: March 12, 2013

### **Warrant**

To see if the town will adopt a bylaw establishing pedestrian safety as a priority in future street-design projects, and take any measures related thereto.

### **Draft Motion**

To amend Title III of the Bylaws, “Public and Private Ways,” by adding the new article below, “Street Design,” effective in the following way. This bylaw shall only apply to street-design decisions made after the date the bylaw is adopted.

#### ***Street Design***

1. It is a policy of the Town of Arlington that pedestrian safety shall be a major goal priority whenever a public way is designed or redesigned. For road projects estimated to cost more than five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000), the Town shall identify and adopt the best design that provides excellent incorporates the greatest pedestrian safety in balance with the safety of other transportation modes that is practical within state and federal requirements and within the programmatic and fiscal scope of the design. The same criteria shall apply to incremental design changes to such projects. This bylaw does not require the Town to seek exceptions to state and federal design guidelines.
2. For the purpose of this Article, “pedestrian safety” shall refer to the physical safety of pedestrians. Pedestrian-safety measures and design features are those that, in the context of the entire design, are expected to reduce the number of pedestrian crashes over time, and/or the number or severity of pedestrian injuries, and/or the number of pedestrian deaths, compared to a design without those features.
3. Nothing in the foregoing shall prevent the Town from considering the needs of emergency responders as articulated by public-safety department chiefs.
4. For a period of ten years, the Town Manager or his or her designee shall report to the Annual Town Meeting or in the Annual Town Report describing how street-design decisions of the previous year reflected this policy.

#### **Transportation Advisory Committee Members:**

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